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Clearwater National Forest
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NEWS RELEASE - FIRE UPDATE

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DATE: September 14, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST:

Meadow Fire:

The Meadow Fire, located 12 airline miles southeast of Elk City in the Red River area, is currently 7,000 acres and 10% contained. Crews will continue to work on containing the hot spots that jumped the hand and equipment line on the west finger of the fire's perimeter with support from one engine and a skidgine. Engines will patrol along the Montana Road to catch any spot fires as the fire has moved closer to that road in several locations over the past several days.

Weather continues to change around the fire area. The combination of higher humidity, lower temperatures and light precipitation will dampen fire activity.

The Meadow Fire area closure in effect was updated to include the following: All roads and trails outlining this boundary are closed with the following exceptions: Road #222, which remains open from the junction of Road #234 and Forest Road #468; and Forest Road #468 and Forest Road #285 are open. A pilot car on the Magruder Road, is escorting travelers from Red River past the Green Mountain Road (#285) and past Green Mountain Lookout heading for Elk Mountain and Windy Saddle.

Turman's Type 2 Incident Management Team is managing the Meadow Fire and the Incident Command Post is based out of the Red River Ranger Station. For more information on the Meadow Fire, please contact Information Officer Mike Cole at (208) 842-9225.

The Red River District reported that the Baker fire at Summit Flat is in monitor status. The Cup fire at the head of Moose Creek is out. The two fires picked up yesterday, the Hog and Badger near Penman Hill, are being mopped up. Moose Creek, Salmon River and Clearwater Districts reported no new fires.

Heavens Gate Complex:

The Heavens Gate Complex is currently estimated at 34,940 acres. It is 50% contained with a full containment date projected for November 15.

The complex is currently made up of four fires: The Black Butte Fire is located in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness east of Riggins and is estimated at 26,000 acres including the Plummer Spot. Two private residences and several outbuildings are potentially threatened. The three fires west of Riggins are in the vicinity of the Seven Devils and Heaven's Gate. **The Green Acres Fire is**

estimated at 6,400 acres; Horse Heaven Fire took off on a major run Wednesday and increased to 2300 acres due to high winds and very dry conditions. The fire escaped containment late in the day. Prioritization of resources to larger fires across the country have locally limited the team's ability to employ aggressive suppression techniques to all fires in the complex. This last week the team has focused its resources on protection of private property and public & firefighter safety as the Black Butte Fire progressed westward. The West Fork Rapid River Trail #113 is closed beginning at the junction with Rapid River Trail #59 and ending at the Idaho County line, due to the Horse Heaven fire activity. McCrea Creek Fire is estimated at 240 acres.

Current Resources: Two Type 1 hotshot crews, two Type 2 crews, fifteen engines & water tenders, three dozers, six helicopters and 269 total personnel are assigned to the fire. An additional Type 1 hotshot crew, borrowed from the Meadow Creek Fire, is assisting this incident.

Green Acres, Horse Heaven, and McCrea: Green Acres is expected to be active inside the Hells Canyon Wilderness in Sheep Creek. Crews will assess needs on the Horse Heaven and ensure structure preparation on the cabin along the west fork of Rapid River. McCrea fire is expected to be active below Trail 101 South.

Black Butte: Crews will continue burnout operations along Road 394, as necessary. Crews will continue checking for spot fires along the Big Salmon River Road on the southern flank and Road 394 on the northwestern flank.

There is a new area closure in effect due to the Black Butte Fire in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness – road closures were revised west of the Gospel-Hump area closure for public safety. The Seven Devils Road 517 and Seven Devils Campground have been reopened. The area closure due to the Green Acres Fire in the Hells Canyon Wilderness remains in effect. For detailed descriptions and maps, please call local Forest Service offices or visit our website below.

Grant's Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team is managing the complex with the Incident Command Post located in Riggins. Please contact Information Officer Ted Pettis at (208) 628-3589 for further information regarding the Heavens Gate Fire Complex.

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST:

The North Fork District has 5 new initial attack fires: Graves and Upper Hidden Creek are suppression fires, while Meadow, Mama Bear and Papa Bear are Wildland Fire Use fires. Papa Bear is the only large fire at 20 acres. The district accomplished 2755 acres in the Flame Creek/Weitas prescribed burn. Due to weather conditions, no prescribed burns are planned today.

Lochsa and Powell District reported no new fires.

Several wildland fire use fires in the Clearwater National Forest's backcountry are being allowed to burn to improve forest conditions and big-game habitat. Information about these fires is posted on the Forest's website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater>.

For public safety, additional road and trail closures remain in effect. Specific information is posted at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/VisitorInfo/Assets/travel_info.

OTHER AGENCIES

Craig Mountain and Maggie Creek (IDL), CPTPA, and BLM reported no new fires.

Additional information regarding the current status of fires and related closures is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc> or <http://www.inciweb.org>

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